



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: August 15, 2019

Agenda Item: Nongame Checkoff Workplan

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

Under the provisions of 87-5-122, MCA, "the FWP Commission shall review and annually approve the nongame wildlife program's projects recommended by the Department for funding from the nongame wildlife account. The commission shall provide for public comment during the review and approval process." While final 2018 tax year donations are unknown at this time, the average received by FWP from the 2004-2017 tax years was \$30,000-\$40,000/year. FWP is proposing some combination of the following work in FY20 dependent on the final allocation:

\$10,000	Non-federal match for State Wildlife Grants to support the statewide avian conservation coordinator.
\$5,000	Inventory, monitoring, and conservation work on Montana Species of Concern and Species in Need of Inventory as determined through a formal ranking process.
\$10,000	Match to federal dollars for disease control of sylvatic plague in the interest of prairie dog and black-footed ferret conservation.
\$5,000	Match to federal dollars for incentivizing private land conservation projects.
\$5,000	Wildlife viewing and outreach projects that encourage more Montanans to appreciate Montana wildlife.
\$5,000	Competitive graduate student stipend for nongame research.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

Public comment was solicited for 30 days. No comments were submitted.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Alternatives could include allocating more or less among these categories or identifying new categories. No alternative was analyzed.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends the commission approve the proposed work for funding with Nongame Tax Check-Off funds.

Proposed Motion:

Move that the commission approve the proposed Nongame Tax Check-Off Workplan for Fiscal Year 2020.